

Phoenix South and SDNM Public Meetings - Meeting Notes

January 26-29 and February 2-4, 2004

GENERAL COMMENTS

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

- Q: What is meant by a “healthy functioning ecosystem”? Define.
A: sustainability while providing for public use and recreation
- What type of commercial/industrial uses are there? What requirements does BLM follow to allow these uses?
- Is there active mining? Can mining occur within the Monument? What are the “hoops to jump through” for mining in the Monument?
- “Have any of these goals been implemented in other places?”
- Goals should be measurable
- Where do primitive areas fit in?
- Problem: Four ranches (120,000 acres) are located within the Monument, and the Proclamation will put them out of business. Range operations have improved over time. The ranchers paid over \$100,000 for permits over time. The the area south of Vekol Wash was closed. Need to find a way to get the ranchers out equitably. The Arizona Cattle Growers Association is affected more by the Proclamation than others.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

- How do mining company plans affect your plan?

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

- Don’t allow foreign companies to mine, take away jobs. U.S. government keeps “locking up” more and more land unnecessarily.
- Are these lands part of the wildlands project(s)?
- Is this going to fall under the management/jurisdiction of the U.N.?
- What commercial uses would be allowed in the Monument?
- Concern that decisions made today will change next week.
- Concern that the Monument will be closed to hunting.
- The BLM doesn’t have the authority to manage these lands.
- Need better notification of meetings.
- Respect and protect history/historic rights of people and their heritage.

PHOENIX SOUTH VISION

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

- Does “ecosystem” include geological, cultural?

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

- Is the vision going to be implemented?

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

- Does multiple use include development?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

SDNM VISION

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

- The Proclamation doesn't mention recreation, is it appropriate to have recreation mentioned in the vision?
- What type of recreation would be limited?
- The proclamation doesn't include recreation, is it appropriate in the vision?

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

- How broad is the word “cultural”? (language on slide vs. handout)
- Phoenix South refers to a healthy and functioning ecosystem, but it's not mentioned in the SDNM vision

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

- Use other term rather than “dispersed” for recreation

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

- Need consistency between things listed in vision and things listed in the overarching goals

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

- Proclamation has the force of law
- What are “scientific resources”?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

- Are all roads going to be closed?
- Road provide access and fire breaks.
- At what point do budget concerns/constraints get considered?

SDNM OVERARCHING GOALS

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

- What is meant by “highest priority”?

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

- The Phoenix South area should also include the outreach and education goal

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

- Should there be an outreach/educations goal for Phoenix South?
- How would mining be affected by Sonoran pronghorn?
- How will you meet biological resource goals without resolving wildlife waters appeal?
- Use all ranching wells/facilities to help the Sonoran pronghorn (Cabeza Prieta Refuge)

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

- Biological – What are “other natural areas”?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

- Do any overarching goals include implementation processes/procedures? If not, should they?

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Watershed, Soil, Water

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage watersheds to maintain or enhance healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.* There’s a difference between “maintain” and “enhance”.
- *Manage watersheds to maintain or enhance healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.* Define “healthy ecosystems”. Are pygmy owls an indicator species of a healthy ecosystem?
Are there water use goals? Answer: BLM is limited in what they can accomplish without partnerships. Question: What would the partnership be?

Other comments/questions:

- Are these achievable goals? Are they too costly? Where does the funding come from?
- Erosion is a disturbance. There should be management and limits on uses.

- Would like to see Gila River system restored (restore quality) – can this plan address it?
Answer: BLM manages the watershed, but there are other land managers/users in the river corridor.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage watersheds to maintain or enhance healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.* There's a difference between "maintain" and "enhance". Also, define "healthy ecosystems"

Other comments/questions:

- No other comments.

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals

- *Manage watersheds to maintain or enhance healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.* How feasible is this goal when water quality/quantity depends on adjacent lands?

Other comments/questions:

- How do you prioritize one watershed over another?
- If bighorn sheep are a natural resource, allow for development of wildlife waters
- Allow for bighorn sheep waters?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- See above – comments not specifically directed to either area.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- There should be a goal added to protect groundwater resources. The issue of increasing water consumption due to urban sprawl, runoff, and urban uses of groundwater should be considered.

BLM should coordinate with State agency to ensure protection of resources and work with local communities.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with state water quality standards.* Phrasing implies first part of statement is subservient to water quality standards. Way it's written doesn't protect water basins underlying BLM lands, pumping, pipelines, well systems to serve homes, businesses, utilities – happening for Forest Service

Other comments/questions:

- Where is conservation of riparian habitats? (biological)
- Are there water quantity standards? Who determines what those are? Familiar with water quality standards, not water quantity standards.
- Consider dikes – management in areas such as Vekol Valley (balancing act)
- Quantity is important
- Are there springs in the area? One known in the Monument, Kate, others in Planning area.
- Also consider water resource needs in permitted uses.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- How does Bender Spring impact the Monument?
- Tobosa is indicative of swale area – should be considered as a special ecological area

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Does this include natural and man-made waters?
- In Vekol Valley, protect high water table from developments and uses.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Will wells be drilled on the Monument

Air Quality

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- No comments.

Other comments/questions:

- Will this be a Class II airshed or higher?
- Suggest developing a long-range monitoring plan

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- A monitoring goal identifying a long range monitoring plan on the SDNM would be a good place to start.

Other comments/questions:

- It's not fair to put tighter regulations on private land just because it's adjacent to the Monument – if you want to control the land, buy the land. There should be some balance – societal interest.

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals

- *Manage use on public lands to be consistent with air quality standards.* Which air quality standards are being referred to?
 - It should specify what standards are being used (state, local, federal)
 - It should specify whether you're using today's or future standards (e.g. PM₁₀)
 - Maybe it should be the most restrictive standards.
 - Non-committal in use with adjacent lands
 - Should be the least restrictive because it's a desert and you can't control dust
 - Specify that you impact the good air quality when you're trying to preserve the standards
 - Use the least restrictive of Federal, State, local standards

Other comments/questions:

- Should pesticides be considered under air quality?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on goals

- *Work with state and local agencies and adjacent land managers to address off-site emissions.*
 - Use “intervene” or “Request state and local agencies to...” instead of “work with” to emphasize the need for a stronger action. BLM could intervene to push other nearby groups to maintain high air quality.
 - The term “work with” suggests coordination, important for emergency response
 - Add goal “ Work with adjacent land managers to improve regional air quality.”

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Consider the cumulative effects of air quality issues (e.g. roads, construction, recreation)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage use on public lands to be consistent with air quality standards.*
 - Where wouldn't you do this?
 - What standards? ADEQ?
 - Does this include night-time lights?

Other comments/questions:

- Any research into BLM's authority to enforce air quality – partnerships
- What further steps can be taken in degraded areas?
- Maybe should identify areas where there is an air quality issue; where monitoring should occur.
- Why is “shortest practical time” appropriate here, but not in dealing with trespass livestock?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004
Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

- Adjacent land uses that create bad air quality – ensure covered under OHV-recreation.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:
Date: February 4, 2004
Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

- What can BLM do about Air Quality issues?
- What about noise pollution (e.g. flight training and private airlines)?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Biological Resources

Date: January 26, 2004
Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain or restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity.* Restore to what? 20 years ago?
Needs clarification
- *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.* Define T&E
- *Conserve, restore, or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats.* Change “or” to “and”. Is “enhancement” needed? Isn’t “maintain” and “restore” enough?
- *Conserve, restore, or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats.* Does “native” mean “invasive species”? Should these be managed or removed?
- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* Change “or” to “and”
- *Manage invasive species to limit their impact on natural resources and processes.* Add “or remove” after “Manage”

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors and Maintain habitat connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation.* Should these two goals be combined?
- *Maintain habitat connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation.* Specifics should be added for major corridors, i.e. I-10, I-8, SR 85, and the Saddle Mountain area. This will require many partnerships.
- *Maintain fire-dependent communities.* Insert “native” before “fire-dependent”. Disturbance-dependent.

Other comments/questions:

- No other comments

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain or restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity.*
 - What is the baseline for ecosystem health?
 - Non-native vs. native?
- *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the list of additional species.*
 - The goals are broad – there may be objectives on specific T&E species
 - Does every type of habitat rise to the level of a goal?
 - How does the goal affect Sonoran pronghorn?
 - Why is the desert tortoise on the map?
 - Vekol Wash – amphibians and reptiles
 - T&E listing/habitat relationship
- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* These corridors extend beyond BLM lands.
- *Conserve, restore, or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats and Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* Should these goals be lumped together or split?
- Where are riparian areas to be addressed? Should they be addressed as a separate goal?
- *Manage invasive species to limit their impact on natural resources and processes.*
 - Make this goal stronger – eliminate” vs. “manage”
 - Does “invasives” include native encroaching species?
 - If a species is becoming more prevalent, isn’t that the natural process? (May be a result of overgrazing, for example)
- There should be a goal to inventory as you can’t have a good goal if you don’t know what’s out there. Goals are inventory-dependent.
- Add goal to build and maintain wildlife waters – would that be allowed?

Other comments/questions:

- Q: Will we still be allowed to build and maintain new wildlife waters?
A: There could be an alternative that could allow new wildlife waters and another to prevent them.
- What’s BLM’s position on groups that put water out for illegals?
- Are people considered in T&E species? Sometimes people are excluded in support of T&E.
- Include Arizona Game and Fish Department – move mule deer
- What is BLM’s position on waters for illegals?
- Does invasive species include people?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- See above - same as comments on goals for Phoenix South Planning Area.
- There should be clarification of grazing permits, status in SDNM

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain or restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity.* Prevent damage, don't just maintain.
- *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.*
 - Where would cooperative efforts come into play with maintaining corridors? Migration routes are working in isolation on some issues
 - Might be able to have some cooperative efforts on wildlife corridors
- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* May apply to migratory birds, so clarify.
- *Restore, protect, or enhance the diversity and distribution of natural vegetation communities.* What does this mean? Change "natural" to "native"
- *Manage invasive species to limit their impact on natural resources and processes.* Add "plants and animals" after "impacts on". Do "invasive species" include plants and animals?

Other comments/questions:

- BLM should work cooperatively with state and municipal agencies and private land owners to manage wildlife corridors and habitat.
- Ensure that the corridors include migratory birds.
- When developing alternatives, consider firewood collection, seed gathering, etc.
- Ensure that there's adequate money to implement the plan (e.g. coordination with other agencies). Invasive Species – there are too many mesquites.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Where do the funds come from to manage grazing in the Monument? How will programs be implemented if there is a loss of funds from grazing and there are more programs in place? Will more funding be provided by the government?

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- The scope of the goals for Phoenix South and SDNM need to be assessed differently.
- Make a goal to inventory and identify species and habitat
- *Maintain and restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity* and *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.*
 - These two goals relate to grazing – reference damage from grazing, lawsuits
- *Maintain and restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity .*

- How do we define “restore”?
- Need to consider impact of grazing activities when implementing this goal.
- Need to define “ecosystem”
- Need to define “restore” To what level? Pre-human? 1956 or whatever?
- *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.* May need to add “restore” to goal
- Add a goal of always knowing what resources are there and their status

Other comments/questions:

- What does a healthy ecosystem mean?
- Need to consider regional context.
- Consider corridors and regional habitats.
- Ensure that the objectives are very specific down the road.
-

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain fire-dependent communities.* Describe this better – specify applicability.

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* Wildlife corridors – would like to see “identify” as part of the goal
- *Maintain, habitat connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation.* Glad to see habitat fragmentation goal, important, but clarify talking about the entire planning area, not just the management units.
- Why is fire not included in the Phoenix South goals but is included in the SDNM goals?
- Who would do an inventory? Why would BLM want to take on that responsibility? Maybe should be AGFD, partner, but not appropriate as BLM’s goal. In some cases, BLM does inventory.
- *Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.* Concerned that conserve and protect T&E can be in conflict with management of general wildlife populations.
- Would rather see T&E combined with general wildlife goal rather than broken into two goals.

Other comments/questions:

- Does BLM have a standardized monitoring system?
- Is Arizona Game and Fish and wildlife waters management included?
- Worth inventorying current wildlife populations/locations
- Identify as a goal, inventory as a management action
- Identify extent of invasion of invasive species before you can manage them
- What about areas of special concern?
- Conflicts among goals, if there is one, what takes priority? Is there a process?
- Will the goals evolve during the planning process?
- Scoping Report – BLM’s position – BLM would defer to professionals. Check what is stated on the website and make sure it is appropriate.

- It wouldn't be appropriate for BLM to defer to one set of professionals – there are other impacts such as on cultural resources, Native American ceremonies. Native American would need to identify where those sites are.
- If say conserve and enhance wildlife populations, do it. Don't perpetually argue if going to or not going to build a wildlife water source. Embrace Arizona's wildlife goals
- The statewide drought is affecting populations differently on SDNM than in other areas.
- Need for good science and good judgement (historical data)
- Alternatives could allow for range of options.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Where there are obvious conflicts, how will they be handled – especially in the Monument – protection of biological resources paramount per the Proclamation

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Focus goals more toward recovery
- Protect for Wilderness characteristics (e.g., combine wildlife corridor goal with maintain habitat connectivity to protect for wilderness to accomplish this.)
- Protect wildlife from domestic animals on BLM lands. Create goals to prevent Ironwood situation with sheep and goats.
- Maintain fire-dependent communities. Are Woosley Peak/Wilderness Areas in the Planning Area? Are you maintaining fire-dependent communities in those? Need to clarify this goal.
- *Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.* Clarify "restore" – to what? Ensure it's not damaging.
- Replace the word "restore" with "balance" (in all resources)
- Remove wildlands plan rhetoric from BLM goals.

Other comments/questions:

- Need to maintain viable population terminology vs. "keep from listing species"
- Reintroduction of species or introduction of new species?
- Control future grazing allotments by BLM possibly buying the leases on State lands
- Encourage BLM to partner with State lands to buffer areas.
- Protect resources from illegals from Border
- Develop emergency procedures/actions to avoid "red-tape". What can BLM do to assist other agencies involved in a situation?
- How will BLM handle wildlife corridors issues raised in Woldlands Plan?

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Conserve, restore, or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats.* Define “enhance” vs. restoration. Do this mean to improve the natural condition? Does it mean adding game animals or adding water – which will bring wildlife that has never been there before.

Other comments/questions:

- Biological resources should be protected from recreational uses.
- Does removal of wildcat roads work to protect connectivity to wildlife corridors?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Cultural

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve cultural resources including the full range of site types.* Clarify: does it mean some of each type or all of the resources?

Other comments/questions:

- Are there any plans to “develop” any of the sites, i.e. for interpretation?
- What are the standard criteria for deciding which cultural resources to protect?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve cultural resources.* Revise to read “Protect and conserve all cultural resources.”
- Should something (a goal) be added about education or outreach?

Other comments/questions:

- What partnership is there with Native Americans regarding cultural sites? e.g. could they have tours of sites, have opportunities to interpret and manage the sites? (example: Painted Rock).

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- There is a need to do a data inventory to know what we have
- Use the data inventory to direct management
- Need a statement to integrate the goals among resources (e.g. cultural landscapes) – possibly an overarching goal?
- Q: Why is there a distinction between Phoenix South and SDNM for the first cultural goal?

A: because the Proclamation protects the full body of resources. In Phoenix South, we need to react to development and protect the range of site types vs. just the really big things as a prehistoric village site. We want to see the full range of what's there – agricultural history.

- A suggestion was made to add structure types for buildings.
- Interpretive/educational outreach may not be captured – may need something in interpretation
- Would the National Historic Places Act be applied differently in Phoenix South vs. SDNM?
- There should be a goal or objective to nominate sites to National Register
- Add a goal to work to identify threats on adjacent lands and address – particularly development on private lands
- Add a goal to acquire land to support protecting cultural resources.

Other comments/questions:

- Clarification was requested on where Johnson Well is categorized (i.e., listed site, part of a set of sites)
- Sites include only what is inventoried, how to protect those that you don't know about

Sonoran Desert National Monument

- No comments specific to SDNM

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve cultural resources including the full range of site types.*
 - Define “cultural resources”. A: generally refers to places used historically or prehistorically.
 - Q: In terms of “site types”, how can you prevent harm to sites that have not yet been identified? A: the body of laws helps BLM do that. Criteria exist on what is worth preserving.
- Consider a goal for restoration of cultural resources. This should be open-ended – how far do you go to restore?

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve cultural resources.* Add “all” after “conserve”.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Can sites be protected from cows?
- Be careful of how to protect resources (e.g. signs tend to bring more damage)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve cultural resources.* Add “to avoid loss”
- The goals are weak/minimal regarding livestock impacts
- Need goal for interpretation and scientific research of resources

Other comments/questions:

- The cultural value of historic livestock/grazing activities vs. protection of other artifacts should be considered (e.g. Fences around historic grazing trails)

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Conserve, protect, and manage cultural landscapes, sites, and the historic/prehistoric context.*
 - Not sure of the term “conserve” as it applies to cultural resources, would “preserve” be better? Conserve means controlled use. Also could mean lock up a sample.
 - Is there any emphasis in conserve, protect, manage (i.e., in the order they appear in the statement)? Maybe management should come first – all falls under management
- *Protect and conserve cultural resources including the full range of site types.*
 - Site types – are prehistoric trails, rock art, etc. to be included?
 - Don’t like the term “site types” – need a definition Most people think of as a feature. “Site” alone may be too broad.

Other comments/questions:

- Tohono O’odham – look at larger area – natural and cultural resources are intertwined. Values can be destroyed if opened to public use, be aware of values
- Does inventory extend to cultural resources?
- Do you intend to restore site types? Sand Tanks dam area behind Javelina Mountain. Artificial Sand Tank? Not recommending, just asking.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Establish an educational goal
- Include the word “Enhance” into the goal, e.g. stabilization

Other comments/questions:

- Partner with organizations for volunteering opportunities – BLM does use some site stewards from State Parks
- Clarify terminology difference between Phoenix south and SDNM (e.g., “full range” vs. nothing in SDNM). Add “all” for SDNM goal.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- There are socioeconomic opportunities from volunteer groups – partnerships at the Monument.
- What about interpretation information opportunities
- Advocate finding sites vs. identifying with visitor centers.
- Have visitor centers outside the Monument (i.e., Gila Bend)
- Use the schools as a venue for interpretation and education
- What makes a site require consultation? A: BLM follows the criteria.
- Confirm that the public will have access to site – should apply to all public
- What is the level of access to sites at the Monument? Discovery vs. signage.
- Make sure ADA regulations are incorporated for access.

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Clarify the difference in the goals for Phoenix South and SDNM

Other comments/questions:

- How can you plan without any money?
- How do you know what's out there?
- What is BLM's obligation to staff, manage, and enforce the goals and objectives?
- How can you plan without baseline data? Does BLM plan to survey?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Ensure cultural surveys are conducted prior to developing trails.
- Will BLM survey the boundaries of the Monument?

Native American Relations

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- No comments on goals.

Other comments/questions:

- What kinds of assets would be used/parameters would be set for achieving Native American relation goals (e.g., would interpreters collaboration in management).

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- No comments on goals.

Other comments/questions:

- No other comments.

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Provide and maintain Native American access to sacred sites and traditional places and use areas. “access” is too broad – maybe it should be “reasonable access” – not unfettered

Other comments/questions:

- Address confidentiality, particularly on sacred sites and TCPs. Could imply don’t advertise cultural sites as it attracts people and destroys the site. This conversation is referring to known sites that are documented, but tribes may have sites that they won’t tell BLM are sacred. This limits BLM’s ability to protect the sites if they are unaware of the resource.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

- See above Phoenix South Planning Area comments – comments were specifically directed to either area.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Also partnerships

- Back to “preserve”, “conserve” – could relate back to time periods. Tribal perspective – everything out there needs to be protected

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Promote and maintain government-to-government relationships with Native Americans to ensure that their interests are recognized and considered.* Prefers “considered” terminology.

Other comments/questions:

- BLM to partner with Tribes to protect resources.
- Where does BLM make the call as to who and what can pass by “Sacred sites”? Are they determined sacred by the tribes? Make sure the public’s input is considered prior to decision.
- Ensure cooperation of the public and the tribes.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Wild horse and burro

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage wild horses and burros in accordance with the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.* It is currently being evaluated whether the existing herd should be subject to management under this act. If the herd is dependent on private land (alfalfa fields), it’s not appropriate for this area.

Other comments/questions:

- Wild horses and burros are “invasive species” and are not compatible with fostering native species.
- There is a distinction between large populations vs. 10-12 individuals.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Does BLM have any influence or inspection rights on adjacent rancher's fences?
- Can BLM develop water sources for wildlife?

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- invasive
- This is a placeholder until there is a suitability analysis for the herd management area.
- Q: Are they eating everything?
A: They are eating farmers' alfalfa crops for survival

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Aren't wild horses and burros considered invasive species? A: If it is decided that they are not suitable, BLM will remove them.
- Burros are a nuisance.
- Are Spanish barb being considered as invasive species – under consideration.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Wild horses and burros are invasive – get rid of them
- The numbers of burros are excessive in Painted Rock Area
- Remove wild horses and burros.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Include "Herd Area" in "Herd Management Area"

Other comments/questions:

- Work with the Tohono O’odham Nation regarding animals that come up from there – burros are damaging Coffee Pot Mountain
- Feral dogs issues – put under invasives
- Remove wild horses and burros.

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Are there wild horses and burros?
- There are feral burros in the Saucedo Mountains – how does this apply?
- What is the difference between feral trespass and wild horse and burro?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Does BLM know range size and population?
- What does the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act mean?
- Is trespass enforced if on private lands? A: yes.
- What are burros out competing? Water is affected. There are no natural predators.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- How do you handle branded burros? A: treat as trespass.
- Feral animals are becoming more prevalent. (feral dogs located west of Bighorn)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Fire/Fuels/Wildfire

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- The Sonoran desert is not fire adapted.
- Wildfire is connected to invasive species. There's also a relationship with grazing

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- It's not a wire dependent community
- Not likely to prescribe fires except perhaps in Vekol Valley for grasslands
- What about fire risks as development expands?
- Does this include intentionally setting fires for management: (i.e. Vekol Valley)
- How does it apply to increasing residential development at edges (urban/wildland interface)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Suppress wildfire on public lands in the shortest practical time.* Add “where appropriate” to the goal to distinguish between fire dependent/non fire-dependent communities. Implies an evaluation has/needs to be conducted.

Other comments/questions:

- Are there any natural grassland areas on top of Table Top Mountain?
- Not all communities are in non-suppression category

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Suppress wildfire on public lands in the shortest practical time.* Add “where appropriate” to the goal to distinguish between fire dependent/non fire-dependent communities. Implies an evaluation has/needs to be conducted.

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Explain why fire management needs to take place – educate the public

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Grazing

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Grazing allotments will be reclassified as necessary, including the designation of ephemeral range, for management of vegetation and ecological processes as determined through the Arizona Land Health Standards allotment evaluation process.* What is the Arizona Land Health Standards allotment evaluation process? There is a need to evaluate whether grazing is degrading the land. Evaluation should be done every 10 years at permit renewal. Also, economic viability for ranchers needs to be considered.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Could range of alternatives in Monument consider retiring grazing north of I-8 (like Park Service)
- Where does economic viability apply?
- How can we compensate and fairly treat existing ranchers?
- Suggest having lease by current permittee expire when he retires.
- What are the chances of having a bill passed to buy out ranchers?
- Q: Are there developed springs where grazing occurs? A: Only one in SDNM known.
- Are cattle fenced off from the springs and other valuable (e.g. Riparian) habitat?

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Need to evaluate grazing allotments before they can be managed.
- Need to address the economic value – fee structure for grazing. How will BLM's actions affect economics?
- BLM has broad health standards – are there other standards that need to be considered?
- Need to consider impacts of grazing on fragile pattern areas (cultural)
- Seems throughout Arizona, lands tend to be overgrazed. Cattle eat prickly pear once the grass is gone. Maybe there should be fewer cows allowed per acre.
- Will allotment renewals be addressed in NEPA documents?
- How many acres does it take to support a cow? Answer – depends of allotment, droughts, seasonal vs. year-round use, etc.

Other comments/questions:

- Observation: there is a statewide tendency for overgrazing.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Need to clarify status of grazing permits within the SDNM. The Proclamation states permits will expire south of I-8
- Recognize that ranchers have rights, but it seems overgrazing within SDNM is inappropriate.

Other comments/questions:

- Use a limit for cattle (e.g. # per acre) in Monument as a tool for management.
- How will allotment renewals be evaluated by NEPA?
- How long will allotment renewals be for?
- Q: What is the density?
A: Depends whether it is perennial or ephemeral.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Will Wilderness regulations apply for grazing?
- Will water be provided for wildlife where grazing ceases?
- If burning occurs south of I-8, how will that be affected by the elimination of grazing?
- Current management (ranching) supports the goals.
- Large investments have been made in allotments by ranchers.
- Protect grazing as part of the landscape.
- Will BLM decisions control ranching and eliminate grazing?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage livestock grazing consistent with maintaining health ecosystems and the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield.* This goal is not possible because managing livestock is not consistent with a healthy ecosystem.

Other comments/questions:

- Is there going to be a “no grazing” alternative for north of I-8?
- How many grazing permits are there around Ajo? A: Four.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Grazing allotments will be reclassified as necessary, including the designation of ephemeral range, for management of vegetation and ecological processes as determined through the Arizona Land Health Standards allotment evaluation process. What is “ephemeral range”?*

Other comments/questions:

- Will there be “no grazing” areas in the Phoenix South area?
- Do you have any perennial/ephemeral allotments that can get an increase in wet years?
- How do you determine the balance between those biological resources that do well with grazing vs. those that do not?
- End livestock grazing and permanently retire allotments on SDNM and Phoenix South area.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Do you anticipate that the compatibility analysis for SDNM will be completed before planning process is completed?
- Will the fences in the Monument be retained, removed, maintained? Maintain inventory, also maintenance/removal system in place. Unclear to user between fences that should/shouldn't be there
- Prescribe a more expedient method to deal with trespass (in the regulations). At Ironwood trespass goats – 6 weeks was too long (plan won't change this)
- End livestock grazing and permanently retire allotments on SDNM and Phoenix South area.
- SDNM needs a comprehensive guzzler plan – no new guzzlers until big picture analysis to be done.

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- How does BLM monitor and evaluate land health?
- Is BLM changing the Rangeland Guidelines?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Define “Protecting the Objects”

Other comments/questions:

- Q: Why are you restricting grazing now? A: Trying to improve ecological condition. Q: Improve to what status?
- Is BLM evaluating South Maricopa Wilderness Areas?
- What is the reason for the grazing allotment expiration south of I-8?

- What effects will the new administration bring?
- Are there any changes to the Rangeland Standards?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Recreation

Date: January 26, 2004

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage commercial, competitive organized or large group/events, and special area recreation activities in accordance with resource protection goals.* What is meant by “commercial”? Define.
- Concern that wording of goals is too general. Prefer more specific direction (e.g. “% of land open to recreation”)
- Public education goal is missing

Other comments/questions:

- How will BLM structure the use? (e.g. OHV sacrifice areas?)
- Could the public land “triangle” located south of and adjacent to Estrella Mountain Regional Park be overseen/managed in partnership with the County?
- Could the area of proposed truck stop be used by BLM for a compatible use?
- Feels like “squeezing out” some recreational uses
- Need to guarantee a certain amount of recreation for a time.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage recreation activities and settings to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument.* Change “Manage” to “Maximize”.

Other comments/questions:

- The concept of multiple use doesn’t seem compatible with the Monument.
- Could Monument lands be turned over to NPS to manage?

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Q: Is OHV use considered in the recreation goals?
A: The Proclamation prohibits driving off road.
- *Provide developed facilities where necessary to support recreational demand emphasizing resource protection and public health and safety.* The word “developed” is objectionable – degrades area. Change “necessary” to “needed”.
- *Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.*

- Q: Has BLM developed a plan regarding which roads will be closed? A: No, there's an inventory but no decision yet. A system will likely be designated through the planning process – OHV designations are a key part.
- Q: In terms of protecting for safety regarding mines, does that mean roping them off? A: There aren't many mines – some need to be protected for bats. No trails leading directly to mines might be a technique to manage.
- Want to keep some access to mines as a recreational opportunity.

Other comments/questions:

- Q: Why is the Phoenix South area so big when there are many areas with no BLM lands?
A: BLM lands are scattered. BLM does have some mineral/subsurface responsibilities. All lands in the west fall with a BLM district even though there may be lands not managed by the BLM.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Q: Is OHV use considered in the recreation goals? A: The Proclamation prohibits driving off road.
- What is "off road" is often misinterpreted, e.g. driving in dry washes. A: An inventory will be prepared and may include washes if it is part of the road. There are more than 1,000 miles of roads and trails within SDNM. Maps will be refined and made available to the public, including the Ajo block and other lands.

Other comments/questions:

- Snowbird camping long term causes damage.
- Entry points to the SDNM must be controlled.
- Commercial use is not mentioned for SDNM (as it is for Phoenix South). Q: Should this be added? A: Possibly as an alternative.
- Q: What are visitor services? A: signs directing the public to visitor services' facilities, I.e. community center, gateway communities
- Resource Advisory Council? Is this part of the partnership goals?
- Have meetings in central Phoenix or on the grounds.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage recreational use to reduce conflicts among various users.* Include recreational shooting?
- *Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.* Define "resource values". Can't it refer to natural and cultural resource goals? (Applies to both Phoenix South and SDNM)

Other comments/questions:

- Concern expressed regarding resource damage from some recreational uses
- Are there places to redirect illegal/incompatible activities, i.e. "sacrifice areas"?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Wouldn't like to see limitations/restrictions in the goals at all.
- *Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.* Change "resource values" to "natural and cultural resource goals"
- Would like to see something related to outreach and education – refers also to Overarching goal for Phoenix South
- Traffic from Mexico is damaging more resources than anybody else. Does BLM have a goal to address this? Goal might be to reduce illegal traffic, but maybe that's not BLM's role. This could be applied as an objective under the first Partnership Goal.
- Opposed to actions being taken at Bates Well Road.

Other comments/questions:

- Are events that would require the special use permits occurring in Ajo?
- Are there designated non-motorized areas?
- What is defined as primitive? How does it relate to motorized use/roads?
- Don't believe that wilderness area or "primitive" use should be applied anymore
- Wilderness designations made earlier did not always have the roadless characteristics represented
- Horse riding – have to use certified feed like in other areas.
- It doesn't make sense to restrict recreation use when the impacts are from illegal aliens and Border Patrol
- Will Ajo be a monument?
- Very little positive recreation entertainment for children other than the desert – should be able to use the desert in Ajo
- Need to educate the Border Patrol
- Any wash is a road
- More restrictions can lead to more concentrated uses/greater user conflict
- Coffee Pot - Area of Critical Environmental Concern?
- There are a large group of motor homes that stay in various areas around Ajo (50-100)
- Will facilities/bathrooms be provided in some areas?
- Make a list of regulations for the LTVAs (e.g. in Quartsite), also for 14-day use areas
- Designation of Organ Pipe Cactus Monument has driven people to Ajo because of shut downs and closures in Yuma. Closures can be caused by people not treating the land right, also a matter of numbers.
- Establish an area where kids can use ATVs – race track. They're doing a good job managing the area. If they are driven off from there, it will impact another area.
- Locals don't use Organ Pipe, they use BLM lands
- Consider historical ranching in historical/cultural resources
- Will BLM have control over land, are multi-agencies an issue or not?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage commercial, competitive organized or large group/events, and special area recreation activities in accordance with resource protection goals.* Protection (use of) with respect to hunting and wildlife population.
- *Manage recreational use to reduce conflicts among users.* Expand to include development of use areas adjacent to each other that would benefit each use – more of a dispersion of uses rather than limiting uses.

Other comments/questions:

- Is there a process to develop a list of anticipated recreational opportunities? Will the list be available for public review?
- Is the Advisory Council mandated and will it play a role in establishing the recreational opportunities?
- Has the planning area been inventoried? If so, how and by whom?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Direct intensive use to areas that are compatible with the protection purposes of the Monument and are environmentally suitable for such use.* Problem with the word “protection” (e.g., in the case of hunting, how could hunting be established, not precluded, with the word “protection”)?

Other comments/questions:

- Concerned about restricting access to the SDNM. Desire motorized access.
- Is camping a recreational activity, i.e. are campgrounds going to be available?
- How would the threshold be established in the Monument to determine when degradation begins?
- Will the Wilderness Areas be managed differently than the Monument?
- Would the motorized vehicle use be closed along the Anza Trail?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage commercial, competitive organized or large group/events and special area recreation activities in accordance with resource protection goals.*
 - Change “Manage” to Accommodate”
 - What’s necessary to get a permit?
 - Add “multiple use management and” before “resource protection goals.”
 - Suggest adding “in accordance with multiple use”
 - Simplify permitting as part of management.
- *Manage recreational use to reduce conflicts among various users.* Does “manage” mean to issue permits? What’s necessary to get a permit? BLM needs to make permits easier to get and be more timely.
- *Direct intensive use to areas that are environmentally suitable for such use.* What is meant by “intensive use area”? A: direct appropriate use to appropriate place.
- *Provide developed facilities where necessary to support recreational demand emphasizing resource protection and public health and safety.*

- Is it BLM's intent to create fee areas?
- If an area is a fee area for use, would all other areas be closed?
- Do not want a lot of areas closed to use.
- Used Bulldog Canyon as an example, permit is required but is free.
- If these actions are implemented, will BLM monitor the areas? A: funding is limited but groups have offered to partner with BLM to help monitor use of the land
- Would the funds come from BLM to develop facilities?
- Have you given any consideration to setting aside sand dunes for ATV use? A: There's not much in the Planning area and they are usually environmentally sensitive.
- Are fee demo areas planned?
- Will developed sites eliminate existing uses?
- Will closures result from "Protection"?
- *Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.*
 - Revise to "Limit, restrict, and mitigate". Mitigate should include alternate locations for recreational activities.
 - If you limit a recreational use in one area, should provide for that use in another area.
 - Use is increasing – there is more pressure on that piece of land
 - How will BLM designate the routes? Does BLM want the public to work with them?
 - Is there any difference in protecting a cultural resource with it is on the Monument or not?
 - Would number of persons be restricted on the Monument?
- Add a goal to include public education to explain why certain actions are taken.

Other comments/questions:

- Are you going to make the lands accessible to persons with disabilities? A: under the
- How does the plan get completed without a completed route inventory? A: Interim decisions.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage recreation activities and settings to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument.* Would this allow BLM to override AG&F and give BLM the authority to manage T&E? A: Proclamation states that AGFD retains authority.

Other comments/questions:

- Will BLM representatives be in these areas to supervise to avoid abuse – how does that fit into the budget?
- Concern regarding accessibility for people with disabilities – can't make it a Monument if it's not accessible.

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Keep developed facilities natural. No pavement - that will attract a lot of large, motorized RVs.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- By designating the Monument and advertising it, doesn't that attract more people creating more problems?
- Are old mines considered historical and will there still be access to those mines?
- Why are mountain bikes prohibited from Wilderness areas?
- Will permits still be required to go into Area A?
- Are OHVs allowed in permit area (Area A)?
- Quads tear up a lot of ground in a short amount of time.

Transportation and Access

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use. What determines legal access?*

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Q: Are there residences in the SDNM for which roads are needed?
A: There are no occupied dwellings.
- Is military overflight restricted in any way over SDNM?

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Need to have a statement that identified coordination with transportation agencies in regard to protecting resource values, i.e. widen State Highway 238.

Other comments/questions:

- 83rd Avenue goes to the SDNM. Community would like to see the road as a gateway.
- Q: Who is going to prioritize which action gets implemented based on budget constraints?
A: BLM develops a business plan. Much is driven by law – what has to be done is the priority. Discretionary actions are prioritized based on what is realistic and BLM does seek public input. The area is now an urban district and we need to address wild/urban interface. BLM can't lobby Congress but the public can so tell Congress what is important to you.
- When the maps are made, please put Vekol Wash on them.
- Will criteria be developed to determine OHV uses in washes?
- Should OHV use be allowed in Vekol Wash (and other important washes) during the rainy season?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Do equestrian activities fall within these goals? They are friendly users.
- Add a goal to read: “Enhance the primitive character of large blocks of public land”. Restrict.
- Add a goal to read: “Realign portions of roads to avoid sensitive areas.”
- *Manage motorized and mechanized vehicle use to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument, and to promote safety and reduce conflicts among users.*
 - Q: When you use the term “manage” how are you going to do that? Limited rangers etc., so how do you keep a vehicle from tearing up the Monument?
A: It is a broad term. This is a goal, so BLM would need to consider closing a road, meet with four-wheel drive clubs, kiosk with rules new road to go around the sensitive are. How we get there is part of the alternatives.
 - Q: Will there be signs at SDNM entry points with the do’s and don’t of use? Needs to be some education method.
A: Most people want to do the right thing so we do need to teach kids and the public users. Important that BLM work with communities for support.
- *Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use.* Q: What determines legal access?
A: This has to do with public ROW. We may use a utility ROW, but it’s not legal to use. Or a loop trail but it goes though private land, BLM may need to seek a public ROW if want to keep the route.
- *Coordinate the transportation system with adjoining land managers to manage public access and safety.*
 - Add “consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument” after “safety”.
 - Should there be clarification that BLM would coordinate with other entities?
 - Q: Does this include designations with street legal access?
A: The concept is to edge map. BLM does not want to maintain a road if adjacent land manager is closing it. BLM is working toward seamless management in the route network.
- Does there need to be a goal to address that system should be considered so it does not result in fragmentation of habitat?
- Did not capture commercial recreation activities in SDNM goals. Were specific in Phoenix South.

Other comments/questions:

- Areas tend to get more restricted over time because they weren’t managed well.
- Representative from Mobile school wants to get school kids involved in the local history.
- Q: Is there an opportunity to designate a scenic byway? A: Yes.
- Q: Does BLM obtain public land for access? A: Rarely.
- Restrict access areas at access points to prohibit the irresponsible use of public land.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain a transportation and travel system consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument that supports administrative, public, and commercial access.* Need to develop a system of uses within the Monument – to provide “access”.

Other comments/questions:

- There are access issues for private land owners – are these grandfathered rights and subject to local jurisdiction?
- Air quality and maintenance issues exist from high use roads

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Road maintenance – don’t want maintained. All current vehicular access should remain as is. Don’t waste taxes.
- BLM grader in Yuma, but not in Ajo hardly at all
- Don’t improve the roads – let us maintain
- Disagree – some roads need to be maintained (e.g. Pipe Line Road/Bates Well Road)
- Seasonal closures – believe can co-exist with vehicle use.
- Disagree with seasonal closures.
- Maybe a compromise can be reached on some dates for seasonal closures – April and March are prime months
- Disagree with folks in Washington or other areas not near Ajo making decisions for Ajo (special interest groups)
- Have someone to help that knows the roads – volunteers are helping.
- Suggest meeting in Yuma

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Goals read like there will be no development on the Monument.
- Why does the goal read “transportation and travel system” for SDNM (only transportation system for Phoenix South).
- Add goal – legal access across public lands (not just getting to public lands). Keep roads legal for public use.
- *Manage motorized and mechanized vehicle use to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument, and to promote safety and reduce conflicts among users.* Change “motorized and mechanized vehicle use” to “access”. What about equestrian and foot traffic? Does this mean horse restrictions in the SDNM? Is Ajo a multi-use area or both? (Right now it’s not restricted)

Other comments/questions:

- Road maintenance – don’t want maintained. All current vehicular access should remain as is. Don’t waste taxes.
- Q: Are you going to maintain roads, is BLM liable? A: If designated as a primitive road, BLM is not liable.
- The Pima County Board of supervisors 1-mile buffer around federal lands applies to non-BLM federal lands. This does not apply to use, only on development (applies in exchanges).

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Coordinate the transportation system with adjoining land managers to manage public access and safety.*
 - Be more specific on “preserving” areas – Not just “managing”.
 - Problem with adjacent landowner selling or transferring rights, causing closure of an access route.
 - Change “manage” to “preserve”
- *Manage access as necessary to protect and conserve sensitive resources or enhance/address public safety.* Does “conserve” mean or apply to restoration (in the Proclamation)? Are there restoration properties in the Proclamation?

Other comments/questions:

- If routes are limited access, would this limitation apply for every agency? Would that limit administrative access, i.e. BLM, Border Patrol G&FD, etc.?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use.*
 - Acquire legal access across State Lands.
 - Provide latitude to develop alternate areas as required.
- *Coordinate the transportation system with adjoining land managers to manage public access and safety.* Be more specific on “preserving” areas – Not just “managing”

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Develop and maintain a transportation system to support administrative, public, and commercial access and activities?* What about right-of-ways – are they expanding? A: MCDOT and ADOT own the roadways – they already have very large right-of-ways.
- *Develop and maintain legal access to public land for administrative and public use.* What is “legal access”? Is this physical access or legal access? A: there are physical access points and roads, but may not be legal (safety). BLM pursues easements for legal access.
- *Manage access as necessary to protect and conserve sensitive resources or enhance/address public safety.* Add “and personal” after “public”. Add “responsible use” to this goal. Too much reckless driving.
- There should be a goal for public outreach and education.

Other comments/questions:

- How will the designantion be handled for Gila Bend Mountains?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain a transportation and travel system consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument that supports administrative, public, and commercial access.* How does this relate to highways (Federal, State, County)? Why is the first word of this goal “Maintain” rather than “Develop and maintain” as seen in Phoenix South? Will there be no development of roads in the Monument?
- *Manage motorized and mechanized vehicle use to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument, and to promote safety and reduce conflicts among users.* As part of range of alternatives, there should be sensitive areas (e.g. desert tortoise) protected from vehicle use.

Other comments/questions:

- When talking about making transitions “seamless”, protection of the Monument should be tantamount.
- Will the transportation plan address pedestrian and equestrian uses?
- Will there be a map to show the transportation routes so the public can comment on it?
- How current is BLM’s route inventory? Who did the inventory? A: BLM and FS personnel.

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Maintain a transportation and travel system consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument that supports administrative, public, and commercial use.* What is meant by “consistent with the protection purposes” in context of the goals? Why suddenly do the resources of the Monument need to be protected after hundreds of years with no specific protection? Restricting access for the public.

Other comments/questions:

- Is anything we say here tonight going to make a difference?
- Where will the Monument be accessed off of I-8? Three legal access points.
- Will there be night-time closures?
- What is the possibility of BLM putting in an overpass/TI?
- Will BLM have the funds to patrol, enforce rules, monitor the public lands?
- Has BLM considered using volunteers to assist in patrolling and monitoring?
- Let’s put some teeth in the enforcement.
- Will the existing roads be closed in the Monument
- Is additional wilderness area being considered? That would restrict use.
- Wilderness area does not allow for use by elderly and disabled.
- If a route is heavily used by a lot of people, does that have an influence to keep a road open?
- What is the “decision tree” process?
- Will BLM get back to the public regarding road designations?
- Will there be trailheads at access points?
- Bender & Sand Tank Washes (and others) are used year-round.

- We want to be involved in the process to decide on road designations.
- The main roads into Johnson Well – will they remain open?
- The sand washes that are used as roads – will they be left open?
- We don't need a lot of new roads out there.
- Want to continue to have access for hunting.

Visual Resources

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Goals are fine

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Goals are fine

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage public lands to protect scenic quality as well as important historic/cultural or other human influenced landscapes, especially to maintain predominantly natural landscapes. Your hands are tied in some areas (e.g. mining corridors). Different laws apply under certain uses (mining claims). Recognize that these exist.*

Other comments/questions:

- Maintain wilderness type ideas?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Will the Monument become a Class II? A: BLM does not have a policy that makes a Monument all one class.
- The line the SRP will put on northern boundary of Monument, will that effect visual management? Does it qualify as a Class III?

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Want to keep good views. Support VRM system.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Public Health and Safety

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Signing or “roping” (fencing) to limit public access to mine shafts. Public would like to view map areas
- Has BLM developed a map/plan to limit access? An inventory has been developed.
- Land Use Plan would have allocation on mineral rights (split estates)
- Dry washes are used by OHV users. Can they be used?
- After goals/objectives are developed, who determines the priority for implementation? Is it based on funding?

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Consider repeater site/communication facilities that are a public safety concern
- Speed limit on Bates Well road – hard to get up to that speed in offroad vehicle
- Do without impacting public vehicular access because of safety
- Where is the enforcement? There are fewer officers for a larger area. Education will help – most people will comply if they know the rules. Violators should be reported – locals can take responsibility

- No just RVers dumping tanks, many users can be causing damage. Work as a community to make improvements.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Do without impacting public vehicular access because of safety

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Will recreational shooting continue?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Will recreational shooting continue?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Safety issues – Upper Roller Coaster Road. If someone inexperienced is injured in a vehicle accident, would that road be closed?

Partnerships, socioeconomics

Date: January 26, 2004

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Encourage development of visitor services in nearby communities. What are visitor services? A: kiosk, community gateway campground.*

Other comments/questions:

- Suggestion to meet in the Monument, as an outing.
- Q: Would BLM be adverse to having signage and facility manned by the community? A: That is the concept of partnerships that BLM is promoting.
- Would BLM use a Resource Advisory Council? A: The goals as written now do not set sideboards on the types of sideboards.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Resolve the appeal on the Monument (Wildlife Catchments)
- Volunteer to help with Tule Well/guzzlers, want to see BLM invite to help out
- Suggest a peer group BLM liaison to help organize
- Consider BLM cost-share program for funding projects like guzzlers

- Consider cleaning out mud stock tanks like Marble, will help antelope and all wildlife
- Small community doesn't have the same issues as other parts of the planning area.
- Does BLM have a mechanism for organizing a group like a "friends group"? Several are in the planning area, encouraged in Ajo. An educational components should be added.

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Engage the public, organizations, agencies, and tribes to foster partnerships in the stewardship and management of the public lands.* Engage should be expanded to "encourage"

Other comments/questions:

- Are these goals part of the plan? Goals are not specific actions.
- What is the process that will identify the organizations, agencies and tribe (partners) to foster partnerships?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Engage the public, organizations, agencies, and tribes to foster partnerships in the stewardship and management of the public lands.* Engage should be expanded to "encourage"
- *Encourage development of visitor services in nearby communities.* Be more specific on administration/educational center.

Other comments/questions:

- Would kiosks be provided?
- Suggest a facility (i.e., educational/administrative) use in the Monument.

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Make maps plentiful. Provide kiosks for distribution of maps to help public understand where they can and can't go.

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

LANDS AND MINERALS

Lands and realty

Date: January 26, 2004

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Consolidate landholdings by retaining, acquiring, and disposing of public land or interest in land (surface or subsurface estate) to further the resource goals and meet community needs.*

Other comments/questions:

- How does “realty” fit in?
- What about lands not showing federal minerals?
- Q: Regarding purchase of private land in SDNM, would that require money? A: Scattered lands probably aren’t very valuable.
- Q: Could lands be transferred to another agency, e.g. Forest Service? A: Funding usually lacking to exchange/dispose of among agencies – pursue exchange with private entities or individuals.
- An advisory body should be developed to determine what to keep and what to dispose of.
- Utilize public lands to “control” growth of urban areas
- Stop exchanges for the benefit of subdividers

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Q: Does BLM have plans to buy any private land in SDNM?
A: Camille described land use authorizations for Phoenix South vs. SDNM
A: Gene explained that there would probably be an objective to acquire private lands within the SDNM on a willing buyer/willing seller basis.
- Q: What type of regulations would be imposed on a tire recycling property?
A: None, if it’s private land. It would be regulated by other governmental agencies (County and State)

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Evaluate threats to resource values (e.g. development on private/state lands adjacent or within the Monument)
- Work with local planning and zoning agencies to establish buffer zones
- Keep exchanges local – acreage limits?
- Take a proactive approach to exchanges – seek lands with resource values

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Look at acquiring lands (surface and subsurface) around the monument too, especially private and state land
- Evaluate threats to resource values (e.g. development on private/state lands adjacent or within the Monument)

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Find a way to acquire State Land (inholdings)
- “Feather edge” the boundaries between public and private land.
- Provide opportunities for adjacent landowners to acquire BLM’s disposal lands, particularly in smaller quantities (5-10 acres) to allow private landowners to protect the boundaries of their lands.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- What about the Pima County Board of supervisors 1-mile buffer around federal lands and SDNM? If Ajo were to grow, it would need land.
- Ensure access for mining claims.
- Regulate use of public land because use is intense in Ajo area because highly restrictive areas surround Ajo.

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Does the public have any say in land acquisition and disposal?
- Does BLM pursue/initiate acquisitions?

- Make the landowner “whole”
- Acquire and retire mineral rights.
- Disposal of land should not occur where development would not be sustainable – water/infrastructure
- Concerned about consolidation that it may affect use of lands if in government control. May imply taking land.
- Consolidations may affect access to other usable lands/resources.
- Concerned that discontinuous access – BLM needs to work with State Lands to ensure that “continuous” access is not blocked to users.
- We’re at a point where private use affects long-term sustainability of existing and proposed development. Priority should be given to existing development.
- Disposals should consider cumulative impacts. Same consideration for corridors and rights-of-way.
- BLM should not dispose of any public lands in the Ajo area.
- BLM should develop a goal, actually a policy, to protect water resources. BLM should not export water (should not address permits), and should not allow uses to affect water resources on public lands.
- No land disposal on Phoenix South or SDNM

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Should there be a goal to retain lands adjacent to the Monument to help protect the resources?
- *Consolidate public lands by acquiring surface and subsurface inholdings.* Concerned because this may imply taking land.
- Add a goal to retain lands adjacent to the Monument (especially lands that provide access) – that affects BLM’s ability to manage SDNM.

Other comments/questions:

- What are the economic implications of acquiring mineral estate, i.e., not available for use any more?
- Acquire available private and state lands within SDNM (also adjacent)
- No land disposal on Phoenix South or SDNM

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Is it possible to transfer land with a clause that limits development and promotes the intrinsic value of the land (open space and resources).
- Promote land exchanges for the public good (not private entities)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Utility corridors and rights-of-way

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values.* Define “resource values”

Other comments/questions:

- Camille explained that utility corridors are established to consolidate where utilities are located.
- Are utility companies fairly agreeable with regard to corridors?
- Consider a corridor in Sierra Estrella area
- Use consistent structure types within the utility corridors (e.g. similar lattice towers)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- There should be a goal and utility corridors should be established. Being such a large landowner, BLM needs to accommodate some of these utilities.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values.* What is meant by “community”?

Other comments/questions:

- Utility corridors should be located where it would be shortest or cheapest to minimize costs to customers.
- Consider alternative sources and produce power locally to reduce corridors needed.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Keep SDNM corridors; not a lot of choice when considering growth (Monument designation better than more restrictive National Park)
- Stick to 1-mile wide with corridors, don't expand – keep existing structures

- Not many ways to go east from west – keep there
- Not problems moving corridors north, e.g. toward I-10
- Manage corridors specifically for designated uses(s) – Utilities, not OHV
- Powerline corridors are appropriate for OHV – logical start for trail system
- Corridors are logical “sacrifice” zones
- Remove corridors in SDNM to preserve the 238 historical landscape and I-8 natural landscape
- Utilities are not compatible with the Monument
- The Monument is not subject to “multiple use”, established to protect other resource values
- TEP powerline one mile north of Monument boundary more appropriate for powerlines – don’t put along Monument boundary.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values.* Change to ...in consideration of other “natural and cultural” resource “goals”.

Other comments/questions:

- Do studies on the corridor alternatives in the Sierra Estrella area early enough to avoid delay in development
- There should be consistent usage in corridors – additional lines should be added to poles to look the same as existing lines. Don’t add different styles of towers/poles.
- Need to accommodate public needs for utility corridors on public land – too much forced onto private lands. BLM has massive land area. Need to be placed on BLM land.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Encourage placement of major utility rights-of-way within designated corridors.* Why does goal for Phoenix South use “encourage placement” and goal for SDNM use “place”.

Other comments/questions:

- Keep lands accessible to the public, surrounding areas more restrictive.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values and Encourage placement of major utility rights-of-way within designated corridors.*
 - 2nd goal - this is one way to manage – should be a subgoal to 1st goal.
 - What's the difference between these two goals?
 - Shouldn't be "in consideration of" – should read "consistent/compatible with protection of monument resources"/
 - Don't change wording, there are economic/public benefits that could be excluded with a change to the wording.
- Would like to see a goal to demonstrate need, CEC approvals, etc. for utility corridors/rights-of-way

Other comments/questions:

- Would be nice to see where facilities are located within designated corridors vs. which corridors don't have facilities.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Would rather not have more transmission lines in the Monument.
- Can all the transmission lines be placed in one corridor (concentrate them)?

Renewable energy

Date: January 26, 2004

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Support development of renewable energy resources.*
 - The goal seems very broad.
 - Be more specific – say solar.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Camille explained that no goal was established for the SDNM because it probably would not conform to the requirements of the Proclamation/purposes of the Monument.
- The phrasing for SDNM makes it sound open to renewable energy development, may want to change phrasing.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Should a goal (or other restriction) be established to specifically not allow for renewable energy?
It's not consistent with the goals for which SDNM was established.

Other comments/questions:

- If solar becomes effective for producing energy, it should be allowed in both areas, but the National Monument should have higher protection.

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- This goal is only “politically correct” – it's not meaningful, development of solar/wind resources is unlikely

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004
Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- This would be supported if it was compatible with other uses and feasible.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Would like to see a goal for the Monument so that there is clear direction about development or no development. Perhaps support renewable energy for the visitor center.

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004
Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Support development of renewable energy resources.* What does “support” mean? Perhaps use the term “allow for”

Other comments/questions:

- Renewable energy may be suitable for certain parts of the planning area.
- How much potential is there for renewable energy in the planning area?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004
Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004
Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Minerals

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Goals listed under SDNM for minerals should be added for Phoenix South to make sure protection and rehabilitation also applies to Phoenix South.
- *Provide opportunities for exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.* Jeff Garrett explained that this was intended to provide opportunities for mineral development.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Minimize surface disturbance to the extent practicable and legally allowed during exploration and development of existing valid mineral rights.* Jeff Garrett explained that for SDNM there are areas of state mineral estate under federal surface and that if a claim were valid, BLM's goal would be to minimize surface disturbance.
- *Reclaim mining sites to as near a natural condition as practicable and legally allowed.* Why doesn't BLM exchange mineral estate (to keep people from having rights to mine in the Monument)? Jeff Garrett explained that because BLM does not own the surface, they will usually purchase the rights/claims. Jeff said that over time claims go away if they are not maintained annually.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Don't add SDNM goals under Phoenix South – allow every opportunity for exploration outside the Monument.
- The SDNM goals should also appear under the Phoenix South list of goals

Other comments/questions:

- Could mining claims (near Globe) be extinguished?
- There should be more enforcement to “clean up” mining claim areas on BLM land

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Minimize surface disturbance to the extent practicable and legally allowed during exploration and development of existing valid mineral rights.* Minimizing Surface disturbance and reclamation should be applied to all BLM lands.

Other comments/questions:

- Is BLM compelled to allow access to mining claims in SDNM?
- Is mining the only commercial use in the Monument?

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Provide opportunities for exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.* If BLM would really support this goal – OK. If not, the goal is not meaningful.
- This goal should only be included if the government is willing to actually support development.
-

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Need a goal under Phoenix South that addresses reclaiming mining sites (there is one under SDNM)
- Goals are appropriate, but if these are legally covered, why do we need goals?
- The goal should include recreational opportunities.

Other comments/questions:

- Need to ensure access to mining claims.
- Two areas of collection: Coffee Pot area and Marble Mountain 4th of July Peak. Need to add to minerals for recreation under Phoenix South.
- Mining would bring young people, jobs, good schools, etc.
- Could there be a more stringent standard for allowing mining outside the Monument through an RMP (e.g. withdraw from mineral entry).
- What are the rules for collecting?
- Designate amateur collection areas.
- Not opposed to mining because of the socioeconomic benefit for Ajo. Small claims mining should be restricted.
- Don't restrict access to the unique geologic features
- There should be more outreach and education regarding unique geologic features.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Minimize surface disturbance to the extent practicable and legally allowed during exploration and development of existing valid mineral rights.* Opposed to mining as described under this goal.

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004

Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- All of these goals are required by law – why include as goals?

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Minimize surface disturbance to the extent practicable and legally allowed during exploration and development of existing valid mineral rights.* Why wouldn't you "minimize disturbance" and "reclaim" everywhere?
- *Reclaim mining sites to as near a natural condition as practicable and legally allowed.* Perhaps this should be appended with the definition. "Reclaim" implies repossessing the mining claim. Perhaps use "restore" instead. However mined lands cannot be fully "restored"
- All of these goals are required by law – why include as goals?

Other comments/questions:

- Concerned about sand and gravel operations in stream. Sand and gravel and placer operations should not be allow to affect hydrologic regime – above and beyond what 404 permit requires; there are 404 permitted operations in channels
- What kind of claims exist within SDNM?

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- How do the goals differ from those in the current plan?

Other comments/questions:

- Private interests benefit more than the public from these resources (the extraction/use of minerals)

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Reclaim mining sites to as near a natural condition as practicable and legall allowed.* Would restoration fit under goal (Define reclaim).

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Geology, paleontology, caves

Date: January 26, 2004

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Goal is too vague – need to determine if there are geologic resources there to protect.
- Goal is generally all right.
- The idea of protecting caves was suggested.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

- Saddle Mountain and Sentinel Plain are unique geological resources and should be managed accordingly.

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Make a goal to determine the nature of paleontology resources on the ground.
- *Protect and manage caves in accordance with Federal Cave Resources Protection Act and BLM management guidelines.* Where are caves? Are there caves? Is this goal necessary or relevant?
- *Protect and conserve unique geologic resources.* Define what is a unique geological resource.
- Add goal to inventory/identify unique geological resources.

Other comments/questions:

- Consider multiple use for geological resources.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and manage the paleontological resources in accordance with BLM management guidelines.* The Monument should have a higher level of protection.
- *Protect and conserve unique geologic resources.* Geological resources goal is adequate.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004
Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Add goal to restrict development in areas of unique geologic resources; don't restrict public access.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Date: February 2, 2004
Location: Tucson

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- *Protect and conserve unique geologic resources.* Does this goal apply only to natural caves and not mine adits?

Other comments/questions:

- Some obsidian outcrops are identified as source sites for prehistoric lithics productions. Respect Native American uses. These outcrops should be protected.
- Caves are unique geologic features as well as recreational resources and potential habitat for some species.
- Rock outcrop areas are unique.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Date: February 3, 2004
Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:
Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: February 4, 2004

Location: Gila Bend

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Hazardous materials

Date: January 26, 2004

Location: Buckeye/Goodyear

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Add a goal to implement a hazardous pollution prevention plan to have less worry about or deal with.

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Add a goal to implement a hazardous pollution prevention plan to have less worry about or deal with.

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 27, 2004

Location: Phoenix

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Make goal to inventory/identify areas with hazardous materials
- Make a goal to evaluate the potential for hazmat in the planning area.
-

Other comments/questions:

- BLM doesn't get the resources needed to control hazardous materials and trash.
- May want to add waste generally (undocumented immigrants, snowbirds)
- Railroads?

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 28, 2004

Location: Tonopah

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Add goal to say “Remediate known areas where there are hazardous materials”
- Add goal to say “Naturally occurring hazmat areas should be identified and managed”
- Abandoned mine lands should be incorporated in goals.
- Consider physical hazards

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Date: January 29, 2004

Location: Ajo

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

- Identify hazardous areas – should this be a goal?

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

- Identify hazardous areas – should this be a goal?

Other comments/questions:

- Concern with potential for live munitions (UXO). Need public notice/awareness for areas of hazmat.
-

Date: February 3, 2004

Location: Apache Junction

Phoenix South Planning Area

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions:

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Comments on Goals:

Other comments/questions: